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GEORGIA LIBRARY QUARTERLY



VOLUME 49 NUMBER 3 SUMMER 2012

GLA SPOTLIGHT

Roddenberry Memorial Library

The Roddenberry Memorial Library is located in Cairo in southwest Georgia. Grady County citizens are extremely proud of their library for which the Roddenberry family provided funding in 1964. Prior to that time, the “library” consisted of one room located above City Hall on Broad Street in downtown Cairo. The library has grown over the years to approximately 19,000 square feet with a lovely interior garden featuring memorial statues, benches and gazing balls among a wide variety of shrubs, trees and ever-changing blooms.

In 2011, the Roddenberry Library suffered severe budget cuts, which inspired local citizen Lauralu Porter to create yard signs. Ms. Porter thought of the idea for her project from signs she noticed around town for the Family Worship Center. After raising nearly half of the money necessary for the project from local citizens and business owners, the Friends of the Roddenberry Memorial Library contributed the remaining funds to purchase 500 signs. Ms. Porter wanted the signs to be a fundraiser for the library and sold many signs by going door to door. Conceived by the former librarian and enthusiastic library advocate, Roddenberry Memorial Library’s “Love Your Library” signs continue to raise community awareness of the library throughout Grady County.



Lauralu Porter

To learn more about the Roddenberry Memorial Library, please visit <http://www.rmlibrary.org>.



From the PRESIDENT

Fueled by a Sublime donut (the semi-official pastry of the GLA Executive Board – you too may partake if you volunteer for an office!), I sit down to write my third column. My campus is in its summer tempo; graduates have left for bright futures around the globe. Four Agnes Scott College students were selected this year to receive U.S. Fulbright Fellowships and will be teaching abroad. Somewhat out of the ordinary for a women's college – two new alumnae are joining the Air Force. All were library users, so we take a little extra joy in their paths.

The COMO Steering Committee has been busy. We're about 100 days from the 2012 conference in Macon. The conference has a new branding logo. Thanks to Tessa Minchew's hard work and creativity, the website is up and populated:

<http://www.georgiacomo.org>.

Two trolleys have been booked for a looping route between the conference hotel and downtown restaurants on both nights of COMO. Poster and program proposals are in. A GALILEO pre-conference is in

the works. Speakers are contemplating pithy remarks. Menus are being mapped out, and wine will return as an option at the Authors' Reception.

The Awards Committee hopes to bestow the inaugural GLA Team Award. It's gratifying to see a new award created that honors multiple individuals for excelling in the past year by offering innovative programming or services, performing or acting on assessment activities, undertaking a successful outreach or promotion effort, or providing outstanding support to a Georgia library. Any group of two or more people, working in a Georgia library (or enrolled in an MLIS program and affiliated with a Georgia library), of whom all are current GLA members, is eligible. Kudos to the Awards Committee for proposing the new award and getting it approved.

In late April, it was my pleasure to bring greetings from GLA to the volunteer judges at the Georgia Student Media Festival. GLA helps sponsor this annual

event. Many members were present to boost selected creative projects from the around the state onward to national and international competition. This year there were 1,000+ student projects and camaraderie with over 150 judges! If you'd like to volunteer next year, watch this site: <http://www.gsmf.us>. Congratulations to Dr. Gordon Baker and his committee colleagues!

In times of budget cuts and austerity measures, it is heartening to learn of new library spaces taking shape or debuting. At a recent ARCHE Library Council meeting, it was delightful to tour the spectacular [UGA Special Collections Libraries](#) in the Russell Building, and to hear about how many public library additions or renovations are planned for Atlanta-Fulton County.

Well, I should wrap up and get back to mentoring History Senior Seminar students. We have a fun project underway in which "personal librarians" assist rising seniors with research over the summer

before they undertake lengthy papers in the fall. Together, we are learning where the best archives might be for their topics, ordering relevant books

that they turn up in literature reviews, and tracking down useful primary sources. Makes me feel like a student again!

Elizabeth Bagley
President 2012
Georgia Library Association
ebagley@agnesscott.edu

My Own PRIVATE LIBRARY

By Teresa Nesbitt

My bookshelf is a caved-in microwave box. It's definitely not the prettiest book storage solution, but after years of moving from state to state, it's helped me control the mad, rabbit-like proliferation of books in my life. No matter how many books manage to appear in the corners of my apartment, at the end of the day I'll only keep as many as I can jam into that box.

The survivors of this microwave box battle royale range from my much-abused, much-loved copy of *The Phantom Tollbooth* to my most recent favorite - Walker Percy's *The Moviegoer*. The line-up hasn't changed much over the past few years, even through several moves around Florida and Georgia. I have a creeping feeling, though, that my next move - whenever that may be - is going to involve some tooth-gnashing and hair-pulling before I figure out which books will inevitably end up in the donation pile.

The problem stems from the used bookstore just up the road in Zebulon, Georgia. I have yet to walk into that store without emerging with an armful of books. It's hard to resist a place with floor-to-ceiling bookshelves, squishy ottomans, and stacks of \$3.00 sci-fi. As a result, a steady tide of newcomers is building on my nightstand, kitchen table, bathroom sink, and between couch cushions. I'm tripping over new books stacked around the house, and I'm starting to think it may be time to add another microwave box to the mix. So, in tribute to A Novel Experience - that most dangerous of bookstores - I'd like to take you on a tour of those books making it so hard for me to say goodbye.

I axed my collection of sci-fi and fantasy books after my first move, boxing up my Mercedes

Lackeys, Garth Nixes and Brian Jacques and leaving them with the public library. Recently, though, I've been looking to rebuild, with an eye on sci-fi classics. Whenever a Philip K. Dick washes up on the shelves, I grab it. Considering so many of his books are out of print, I consider myself lucky to have found just the one - *Now Wait for Last Year*. Featuring some pulpy, Atlas-Shrugged-esque cover art with a giant torso and bloodshot, glaring eye, the tagline reads "ONLY ONE MAN COULD SAVE THE WORLD, AND HE WAS DEAD - AGAIN." How could anyone resist a teaser like that? The book itself is as melodramatic as advertised, delivering soapy family turmoil amidst an alien war.

I've also stumbled across some classic science fiction by accident, finding Walker Percy's *Love in the Ruins* while looking for more along the lines of his coming-of-age story, *The Moviegoer*. Instead of another tormented Southerner trying to find meaning in his mundane surroundings, I found myself with a tormented Southerner dealing with an apocalypse of his own creation.

On the flipside of this equation, I've also picked up books I expected to feature sci-fi or fantasy elements, only to find myself with a historical war novel. I chose the wrong book to jump into the collective works of prolific fantasy author Michael Moorcock, going (again) for the one with the fanciest cover without ever reading the back. *The Brothel in Rosenstrasse* follows the wandering mind of an old man as he recalls his experience of the Second World War, blocking out the horrors of the world in the Rosenstrasse red light district. While featuring an escapist as its main character, there is not a stitch of fantasy to be found in this book - a bleak reflection on the effects of war.

Equally bleak, but far more fantastical - a ratty, dog-eared copy of *A Game of Thrones* found its way into my hands through A Novel Experience as well. Reading *Game of Thrones* has been like a marathon race against the inevitable tide of spoilers lurking online, and I'm 100% certain that the next four books in the series will soon add to the glut of books in my house. *The Hunger Games* trilogy hasn't helped matters either - after finishing the last page of *Catching Fire*, I immediately got in my car, drove twenty miles to the bookstore, and dropped money on a hardback copy of *Mockingjay*.

I foolishly bought the first book in another series, as well, lured in by the stack of Stephen Kings buried in the horror and mystery section. *The Dark Tower: The Gunslinger* currently sits on my nightstand, and will be the next up to bat once I finish the last few pages of *Game of Thrones*.

This sampling is only the tip of the iceberg when it comes to my book hoarding problems. Some

non-fiction has found its way into my home, including Tony Horowitz's *Confederates in the Attic* and Steven Levitt's *Super Freakonomics*. I've reconnected with some of my middle school favorites, like *Jane Eyre* and the fast-food fiction of Victoria Holt. There's even been a stab at practicality with the addition of some cookbooks to my kitchen shelves.

An obvious solution to my book mobility issues would be a Kindle, but - if you couldn't already tell - I'm a sucker for the yellowing, inked-up, dog-eared pages of used books. I love the hideous, eye-searing color schemes of books published in the seventies, the prim fonts of the fifties, and the grandiose, apocalyptic cover art of classic science fiction. While I've already tagged some books for the donation pile, I'm becoming increasingly reluctant to let go of my books. It may be time for me to buy an actual bookcase.

Teresa Nesbitt is the Distance/Outreach Librarian at Southern Crescent Technical College

My Own PRIVATE LIBRARY

By Laura Elliott

Last year, I had the opportunity to visit the Laura Ingalls Wilder Museum in Mansfield, Missouri. Visiting the Rocky Ridge Farmhouse and Museum was a lifelong dream of mine, ever since my mom first began reading the series to me as a child. When I finally learned to read, I poured over the frontier word images that Mrs. Wilder painted in her *Little House* books. Thus, the *Little House* series has been an essential cornerstone of my children's library. I have enjoyed countless hours immersed in these books, in addition to biographies of Laura Wilder, memoirs, and other *Little House* collections.

As a child, I especially absorbed the series, but as I grew older, I moved to reading other works written by or about Laura Ingalls Wilder. For instance, *Laura Ingalls Wilder: Little House in the Ozarks* edited by Stephen W. Hines is a collection of Laura's newspaper articles submitted to the *Missouri Ruralist*. Many of the articles focus on Laura's advice and experiences on farming or on trips she took. Of course, one cannot forget the journals, *On the Way Home* and *West from Home*, which describe the country around the turn of the century and people she met. Lately, I finished reading Pamela Hill Smith's biography, *Laura Ingalls Wilder: A Writer's Life*, which gives the reader more details about the writing process Laura Wilder developed to finish the series.

I was excited to discover two children's series, one based on Rose Wilder Lane (written by Roger Lea McBride) and another based on Caroline Quiner as a young girl (written by Maria D. Wilkes and Celia Wilkins). I read these just as enthusiastically as I did the *Little House* books so long ago. The most recent additions to the Laura Ingalls Wilder portion of my library are the *Little House Cookbook* by Barbara M.

Walker and *The Wilder Life: My Adventures in the Lost World of Little House on the Prairie* by Wendy McClure. Purchasing the cookbook was inspired by Wendy McClure's baking experiences and expectations of the food described in the *Little House* series, and I thought that I would take time to try some of the recipes myself at some point. If you are an avid fan of Laura Wilder, I do highly recommend McClure's book. Her experiences with frontier life will spark much laughter along with an occasional bout of nostalgia.

As much as the *Little House* series has amused me, I have added more books written by and about her daughter Rose Wilder Lane. William Holtz describes Rose's life in his work entitled *The Ghost of the Little House: A Life of Rose Wilder Lane*. His focus on Lane's artistic accomplishments as a writer has encouraged me to read some of her biographies that I have downloaded onto my Kindle. I also have recently purchased two of her fiction pieces, *Free Land* and *Young Pioneers*, which are loosely based on her parent's lives.

Granted, the *Little House* books are not the only ones that take up the seven bookshelves in my house. As a former educator, I am always on the look-out for a wonderfully written and illustrated children's book. While teaching, I took great delight in introducing Jan Brett's book, such as *The Mitten* and *The Hat*, during the winter months of the school year. The class and I would enjoy looking over the illustrations, trying to predict the next event. A. A. Milne's Pooh books were always a hit with the children. Recently, I discovered Jane Yolen, whose *Owl Moon* has easily become one of my favorite stories to read aloud.

Reading these stories has often led me to the chapter books section of the children's section of a book store or library. I have discovered Roald Dahl's quirky writings, Lois Lowry's thought-provoking tales, and L.M. Montgomery's hilarious Anne. I must say, though, the most fun I had reading books aloud in the classroom was when I read *The Lion, the Witch, and the Wardrobe* by C. S. Lewis. The first movie was about to be released just as I finished the book. I have fond memories anticipating the release date with my students.

Even though I am passionate about children's literature, I do take an interest in books related to sewing – one of my favorite hobbies besides reading. My mom has been very instrumental in teaching me how to sew, and we are often found browsing the local bookstore and craft store for intriguing project books in quilting, knitting, crocheting, and cross-stitching. We have learned a great deal about new ideas and tips for projects that others have created. For instance, the Better Homes and Gardens *101 Christmas Cross-Stitch Designs* and Sam Hawkins' *520 Christmas Cross-Stitch Designs* have been wonderful references for quick and easy ornament projects that I give out at Christmas. On occasion, I find a sewing book that is completely useful for things that I have no idea what to do with and don't want to get rid of. Ann Cox's *Beginner's Guide to Silk Ribbon Embroidery* is such an example. Growing up

when it was fashionable to wear ribbons as a young child, I now have a resource for putting all those ribbons to good use! I can now use ribbons to create many embroidered pictures that will look wonderful in my house.

One of my favorite quilting books that I have in my possession I happened to pick up in Lancaster, PA while attending a conference. On a whim, my friends and I decided to tour an Amish farmhouse museum open to the public during our free time. Browsing through the gift shop, I picked up *The Quilter's Guide to Amish Quilts* by Jan Jefferson and Maggi McCormick Gordon. Not only is the book filled with how-to guides for quilting these beautiful masterpieces, but it also gives background into the daily life of the Amish, which I have enjoyed reading immensely.

I had a friend remark once that I had too many books. In a way, she is right. I have too many books to share in one short article. However, the books I have shared in this article are valued for the people who shared them with me or, in some cases, I have shared with a student. Having these books on my shelf are daily reminders of how books can create wonderful memories.

Laura Elliott is an MLIS student at Valdosta State University

We Love LIBRARIES!

There's been a lot of gloom and doom spread about lately regarding public libraries. And I'm not denying any of it; these aren't the best of library times. Increased patronage but no extra funding. Possible closures. Budget cuts (i.e. do I buy copier paper or toilet paper?). To say the first three years of my library management career have been challenging would be a massive understatement.

But, you know, the average library user usually doesn't see any of the negatives just mentioned. What they see are open doors and smiling faces. They just keep coming to the library for their own unique, personal needs. Like the regulars who are there first thing every morning when the library opens to check their e-mails or surf the Internet for any possible job vacancies or just to play a quick game of solitaire. There's the weekly Ready to R.E.A.D. (Reach Emergent Academic Development) class that comes rain or shine to learn how to become prepared to enter school through songs, hands-on activities and social interaction. The newcomers to the community who instinctively come to the library to ask questions about where to get their lights turned on or where to go to look for work. Then there's the lady who comes in around 4:30 pm on Friday afternoons (we close at 5pm on Fridays), returns her 12 rented videotapes (yes, people still use VHS) from the week before and then selects 12 more for the upcoming week.

It's a little hectic but that's the best part of the job; helping those who come in with whatever their need may be. And to some of the general public, those needs may not be that important. But to those patrons who've had to disconnect their internet service or can't afford to go to the cinema for entertainment or can't afford to buy a new book (or who can but know the wisdom of free), the library is their special oasis; a place

where they can come and get what they need with no questions asked. And to speak to these people, laugh with these people, "pick" at these people (you know who I'm talking about, Sam) makes all the hassles and stresses that arise just a fast, fading memory.



By Tim York

It's also what makes all the financial mess so hard to take because not only will the library and its services be effected by funding cuts and rising expenditures but also all the people; the young, old, parents, children, home school, in school, out of school, employed, unemployed, under-employed. Where will they go? What will they do? How will they adjust/adapt? It's a ripple effect for our community that I'm afraid to think about. Our community needs an educated workforce but if the library's doors are closed due to a lack of funding where will the public go to tutor or job search or proctor test or _____(you fill in the blank)?

Only time will tell. Maybe funding will be restored. Maybe grants will be approved. Maybe stimulus money will be received. Maybe the public will realize that they have a responsibility and a say so in the matter to let their community leaders know that their library is an important and vital cog in the daily workings of the place they call home. One that can touch and influence the lives of every member of the community from cradle to grave. Isn't that why it's called a "public" library?

*Tim York is Manager at
LaFayette-Walker Public Library*

Ideas, Hints & **TIPS**

By Patricia Kenly and Bette Finn

In an era of declining reference statistics, librarians can use outreach as a great way to enhance their reference and interpersonal skills. The reference benefits of participating in special events and creating and staffing exhibit booths extend beyond the obvious outreach benefits of promotion, collaboration, and collection development. Our experience has shown that engaging in outreach efforts such as focused campus/community events or library events has indeed sharpened our reference skills.

A campus-wide or community event such as Earth Day is an excellent opportunity to utilize these essential skills. At Georgia Tech, we were one of seventy exhibitors at this year's Earth Day celebration. Our Earth Day exhibit required significant research and display preparation. We considered environmental issues, such as the size of the ozone hole, the melting of glaciers, and endangered species. In finding the information, we also came across photos that we could use in our display (many from NASA and other federal agencies). Many people stopped to take a closer look at our striking images from government sites and our attractive raffle book cover, which gave us the opportunity to describe library services.

As important as the visual aspect of the booth, a core component was our in-depth, annotated bibliography of sources. We developed an online research guide (<http://libguides.gatech.edu/earthday>), co-authored with our colleague Lisha Li, to provide a launching pad to this valuable information. The guide prominently links to the bibliography as well as to selected



websites and resources on major environmental issues - hot topics, the

Gulf Oil Spill, air, climate, energy/fuel, health, sustainability, wastes, water, and weather. We encouraged people passing by the booth to pick-up our customized Earth Day bookmark, as well as our brochure, which contained a list of key resources as well as the web addresses to our library's homepage and to our online guide.

As another example, at our institution, for the past decade, the library has been invited by Career Services to give presentations at its annual Career Focus event. At this event, which helps prepare seniors for campus interviews, the business reference librarian presents four back-to-back sessions on researching company information. This is one of seven topics at the event, which typically attracts more than 400 students. These students earnestly seek this information; at the end of each session, many typically ask detailed questions about particular companies. The librarian has to be able to respond quickly – without the convenience of a computer nearby. Students have expressed appreciation that the handout, which is core to the presentation, has also been made available on the business librarian's online

research guide for Company Information (<http://libguides.gatech.edu/company>).

In the fall, during the second week of the semester, our library hosts a Welcome Back event for returning students. This is an ideal opportunity for us to inform students about the library's reference services, and to give to students a customized brochure of key library resources and services, compiled by the subject librarian for their major. An eye-catching display, as well as snacks (cookies, candy and chips), entice students to stop. Staffing this event requires one to be approachable and to have welcoming body language – skills that, though they appear obvious, require practice. We want to make a positive impression on our students - one that conveys that we are genuinely interested in helping them.

We strongly encourage reference professionals to become involved with outreach events such as these in order to develop and maintain skills important to successful reference service. Create outreach opportunities for yourself – whether on-campus, in the community, or in the library. From our experience, these events have been rewarding – they energized us and reminded us why we became reference librarians. See what happens; enjoy yourself!

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Patricia E. Kenly is the Business Reference Librarian & Government Documents Coordinator at Georgia Institute of Technology, and was Chair of GLA's Reference Services Interest Group (2010-11) patricia.kenly@library.gatech.edu

Bette Finn is the Research Librarian in the Information Delivery Department, as well as the Subject Librarian for Electrical & Computer Engineering and the Georgia Tech Research Institute, at Georgia Institute of Technology bette.finn@library.gatech.edu



No Melting Pot: Results and Reflections from the 2011 Southeastern Federal Depository Coordinators Salary Survey Project

By Yadira Payne, LuMarie F. Guth, & Chris Sharpe

INTRODUCTION

Working in libraries, it is clear that there are many types of librarians with specific focuses and specializations. Government Documents (Government Information) Librarians are no different. As relatively new Federal Depository Coordinators the authors, Yadira V. Payne, Chris Sharpe, and LuMarie Guth, were interested in how their job responsibilities, position titles, and salaries compared to others in the region. No survey studies were found that included this information specifically about Government Information Librarians.

The authors launched the first Southeastern Federal Depository Coordinators Salary Survey in March 2011. The intent of the survey was less about salary comparison than it was about job responsibilities, qualifications, and education. From the results, the authors were able to extrapolate interesting and unexpected trends within their niche of librarianship. The diversity revealed through the project responses further reinforced the original idea that Government Information Librarians do not fall into a melting pot category.

REVIEW OF LITERATURE

McMahon and Hand (2006) provide a how-to guide of salary surveys. They offer advice such as thinking forward to the survey analysis and only asking questions that will be used in the analysis, remembering that compensation will vary among places of work, and asking about

“job size” or the number of people a person supervises.

Toutkoushian edited two volumes exploring the issues in salary-equity studies in academia. Ferber and Loeb outlined the basis of salaries in academia: training, academic discipline, experience, and scholarly merit (publications, grants, teaching, service, etc) (as cited in Toutkoushian, 2002, p. 44). Salary in academia is complicated by the concept of salary compression, where newer faculty are given higher salaries because of their competitive market value, while experienced faculty do not receive comparable pay increases. Barbezat also hypothesizes that workers with more experience at the same university may be stigmatized as having lower quality because they have not been hired away (as cited in Toutkoushian, 2003, p. 25).

The American Association of Diabetes Educators (AADE) conducted a salary survey of diabetes educators in 2008. Diabetes educators, like librarians, have a variety of roles within their profession. Diabetes educators may comprise nurses, dietitians, pharmacists, social workers, and physicians, and AADE’s survey, like this survey, was a first effort to characterize their respective profession’s demographics, education, professional experience, roles, salaries and compensation. The analysis of the survey results showed credentials and experience made a difference in base pay (Tobin, 2009).

Examples of librarian salary surveys included those of medical librarians, visual librarians, and public librarians. The Medical Library Association has conducted several salary surveys. The results of the 2001 survey showed the medical librarians were still predominately white and unequal pay remained when comparing men and women. Aging of the workforce was a major concern and a focus on developing middle and entry level medical librarians to replace the senior librarians who will be eligible to retire in the near future was recommended (Wallace, McMullen, Group, & Corcoran, 2004). The Association of Visual Science Librarians surveyed its members in 1989 to evaluate levels of professional and financial support. Questions posed concerned the collections, staffing, professional status, salary and benefits. Watson and Kroll (1992) analyzed the last three aspects and noted that health science libraries had the highest mean salary among visual science librarians.

There have been only a few surveys that have focused on Government Document Librarians. Wilhite (2000) surveyed Oklahoma Government Document employees as part of creating service standards. It focused the attitudes and opinions on the workplace environment. Questions were asked about the employee's knowledge of the organization of the collection, coworker relationships,

satisfaction, services, and facilities. Two surveys of Government Document Librarians focused on their training and education. Cross and Richardson, Jr. (1999) found that most Government Document Librarians majored in either history or English for their undergraduate degree and did not plan on entering the Government Documents field. Yang (2001) had 244 respondents and the results indicated self-instruction was the way most Government Document Librarians gained their knowledge of their field and that there was a need for more classes on census publications and statistical data.

Again, no survey studies were found that specifically targeted Government Depository Librarians. The ALA-APA Salary Survey 2010 had a section "Government Documents/Publications Librarian." There were 79 national respondents listed in this section; there is no clarity as to how many of those respondents were in fact depository coordinators. The respondents from the 2009-2010 ARL Annual Salary Survey groups designates as "Documents/Maps." The assumption is that they are referring to Government Documents Librarians but it is not defined. There is no clarity as to how many of their respondents were depository coordinators as opposed to Maps Librarians. Another limitation to the ARL study is that it only represents academic research libraries.

DEFINITIONS

Federal Depository Coordinator: The person that upholds and coordinates the execution of the authority for the Federal Depository Library Program (FDLP) and its legal obligations as designated in 44 United States Code §§1901-1916. Persons in this position must attend to: acquisitions, technical processing, and cataloging of the collection regardless of format. Marketing, outreach, instruction, research, and reference also fall under the coordinators jurisdiction as well as compliance with the legally required surveys, program guideline changes, and destruction of sensitive material.

The terms Federal Depository Coordinator, Government Documents (Gov Docs) Librarian, and Government Information (Gov Info) Librarian are used interchangeably throughout this text.

Southeast: For the purposes of this study, the 12 states identified by the Southeastern Library Association as Southeastern States were surveyed: Alabama, Arkansas, Florida, Georgia, Kentucky, Louisiana, Mississippi, North Carolina, South Carolina, Tennessee, Virginia, and West Virginia.

METHODOLOGY

Guth, Payne and Sharpe decided to do a survey of all government depository librarians in the southeast in order to compare salary, qualifications and work environments on a regional level. After review of the literature the survey was composed using SurveyGold, version 8. Questions covered personal profiles (age, gender, ethnicity, income, years of experience in librarianship, years of experience at current position, library director status, faculty/staff status, highest degree earned, number of people respondent directly supervises, job title), workplace profiles (state, full-time status, patron base, size of library collection, size of government collection, percentage of documents received), government information job profiles (job title related to government information, percentage of time spent on government information duties, whether or not

respondent performs technical services duties), and other (were degrees instrumental in salary negotiations and a field for comments). A disclosure message preceded the questions.

After review and approval by the Augusta State University Oversight Committee on Human and Animal Research, the survey link was sent in an email to regional depository librarians in the southeast requesting that they forward it to the selective depository coordinators in their state. [See Appendix A]. A follow-up email was later sent to encourage survey response. This contact method was chosen because of out-of-date contact information in the FDLP directory and because it was believed there would be a higher response rate if the survey was sent to selective coordinators from their regional. After results were received they were compiled and analyzed to identify correlations and trends.

ANALYTICAL SUMMARIES

Written into the Declaration of Independence signed on July 4th, 1776, is the phrase “the depository of their public records.” This statement gave origin to the Federal Depository Library (FDLP) Program that was officially signed into existence by the Congressional Act of 1813 [§3 Stat. 140].

Number of Responses

According to the Federal Depository Library Directory there are 1,250 depositories in the United States with 283 of those depositories in the southeast. Of the potential depositories for this study, 60 (approximately 22%) returned a survey. [See Figure 1]. Depositories include law libraries, Supreme Court libraries, state libraries, public, academic, special, and academic research libraries. Supreme Court and private law offices may not have responded as they do not fall under the jurisdiction of the Regional Depository Librarian and therefore would not have received the request letter. [See Appendix A: Letter to Regional’s]

Responses by State											
GA	FL	AL	VA	LA	KY	SC	MS	AR	TN	NC	WV
15	10	10	10	7	5	1	1	1	1	0	0

Figure1

It should be noted that both the ALA-APA (79 respondents) and the ARL (59 respondents) Salary Survey’s received smaller response rates through their projects. However, it is unclear from these surveys the exact number of Gov Docs Librarians that responded as they were grouped in with other librarians. The ALA-APA Salary Survey uses “Government Documents/Publications” Librarians and the ARL survey grouping was “Documents/Maps” Librarians.

Demographic Characteristics

Age

Among those who responded to this survey, slightly more than half fell into the 41-60 ranges [See figure 2]. The “Under 30” librarians constituted the lowest percentile at only seven percent (4 respondents) with a 3:1 female to male ratio. The “61–Over” were at thirteen percent (8 respondents) with a 6:1 female to male ratio.

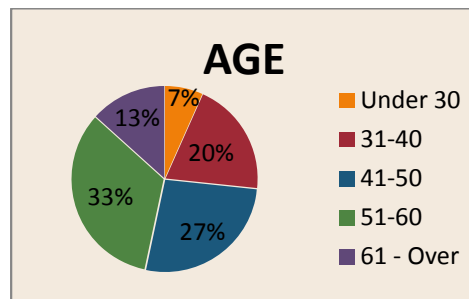


Figure 2

Professional Experience

The survey did not find a strong correlation between years of professional experience and base salary [See Figure 3]. When asked for years of experience, we found that the “Under 30” respondents were not the only age group with fewer than five years of professional library experience. In fact, they were evenly split between the 31-40 group and the 41-50, showing that a significant amount of new librarians are entering the field later in their professional careers [See Figure 4]. Librarians with fewer than 5 years’ experience constituted seven percent of respondents. This finding along with the 2009 Library Journal survey of first-year librarians shows a shortage of new professionals specializing in Government Documents. The *Library Journal* survey found that Government Document Librarians had the lowest percentage of new librarians at 44 percent and the 26th lowest average starting salary out of 30 positions at \$35,667 (Maata, 2010a).

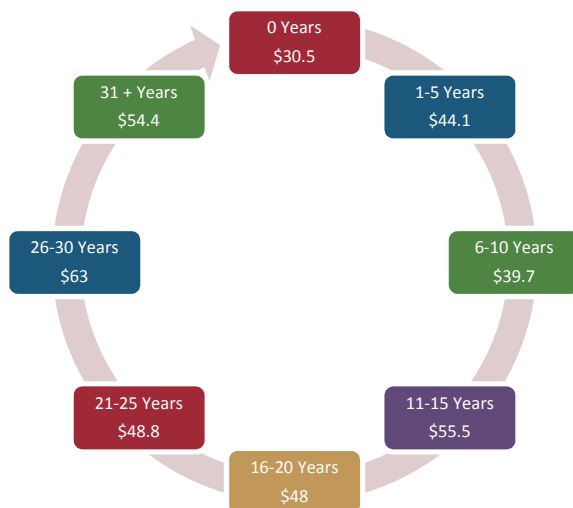


Figure 3: Salary by Years of Experience

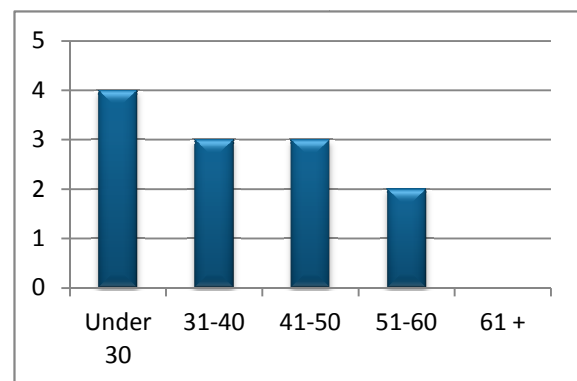


Figure 4: Gov Docs Librarians with Fewer than 5 years experience [By Age]

Education

This study provided insight into the educational background of Federal Depository Coordinators. For instance, two respondents reported having no graduate degree, only bachelor's degrees. Both reported earning in the \$20-25k range. Neither held librarian titles. One was in an academic library and the other in a public library. It should be noted that a third individual reported earning \$19k. That individual is a Gov Docs Librarian in an academic library and does hold an M.A., not a library science degree.

As with all librarians, Gov Docs Librarians come from a wide range of educational backgrounds. While we did not ask them to list their undergraduate degrees, we did ask that they list their highest degree earned as well as all grad degrees. Out of 60 respondents, there were a reported 56 Masters of Library Science/Studies degrees, 21 other master's degrees, 2 Ph.D.s, one J.D. degree, and the two responders with no graduate degrees. The team was unable to find a direct correlation between the number or type of graduate degrees and salary. When asked if they believed the degree(s) they earned to be useful in salary negotiation most replied in the negative [See Figure 5]. One respondent wrote: "... salary negotiation is not available. It's take it-or-leave-it."

YES	NO	I DON'T KNOW	NO COMMENT
16	20	13	9
27.6%	34.5%	22.4%	15.5%

Figure 5: Degrees & Salary Negotiation

SALARIES by GENDER and ETHNICITY

In our study, the majority of respondents (20%) earn base salaries in the \$46-50K range. Those earning \$20-25K and \$66-70K were the lowest at 5% each [See Figure 6]. Of the 60 respondents, only 8 (24%) identified themselves as ethnic minorities with 45 (76%) identifying themselves as white [See Figure 7].

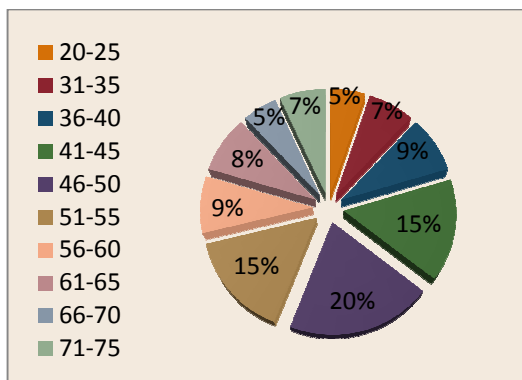


Figure 6: Base Salary (All Respondents)

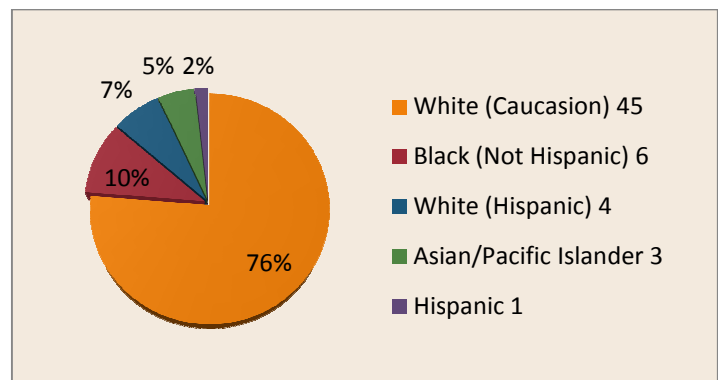


Figure 7: Ethnicity (All respondents)

According to *Library Journal's Placements & Salaries Survey 2010: Growing Equity Gap*, "Men still command higher average starting salaries than women (\$44,945 compared to \$41,514). The gender gap widened this year with the national average for women's starting salaries falling 8.3% below their male peers', increasing from 7.4% differential of 2008" (Maata, 2010a)" The ALR Annual Salary Survey 2009-2010 also showed this disparity:

	Women		Men		Total	
Position	salary	No.	salary	no	salary	No
Documents/maps	\$68,333	36	\$70,020	23	\$68,990	59

Figure 8: [data extracted from table 17: number and average salaries of ARL university librarians by position and sex, fy 2009-2010] p.42

In our study, more responses were submitted from females (49 at 81.67%) than males (11 at 13.33%). The base salaries reported do not reflect the equity gap found by the Library Journal. White females had the highest earning at approximately \$51,000 annually with white males earning the least at approximately \$35,000 [See Figure 9].

According to the *Placements & Salaries Survey 2010: Growing Equity Gap* while 20% of 2009 minority applicants were placed (an increase from 2008's 12.8%) they were hired at salaries "below the national starting averages (\$40,475, 4.2% below \$42,268)." "Minority placements in academic libraries grew from 25% of all minority jobs reported in 2008 to 31% in 2009." "[sic] salaries in academic libraries did not keep pace and followed the overall pattern of decline, losing 15% from the high of 2008 (\$37,539 compared to \$44,182)." For the Southeast, "they started out 9.7% higher (\$43,259 compared to \$39,440). In both instances, these grads obtained salaries that were higher than the overall national average" (Maata, 2010a). The results from our study reflect this disparity with both minority males and females reporting earning approximately \$46,000 annually [See Figure 9].

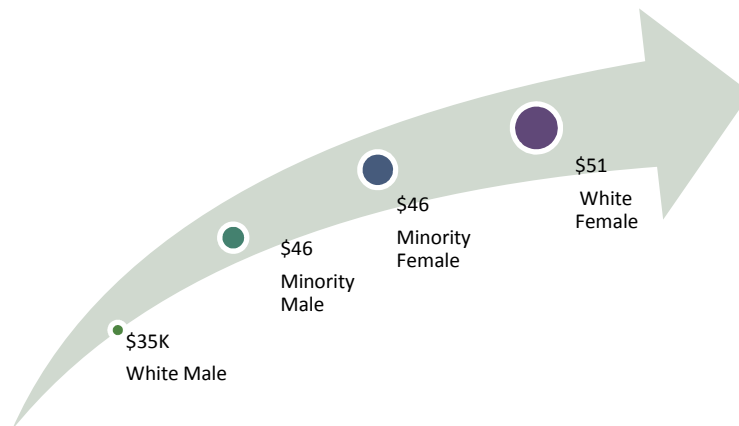


Figure 9: Salary by Gender & Ethnicity

SALARIES: NATIONAL vs REGIONAL

Our study found that the reported average base salary for Gov Docs Librarians in the Southeast is approximately \$47,500 (\$46-\$50K). The Bureau of Labor Statistics reports similar findings for librarians in the Southeast with the annual mean salary at \$51,871.82 [See Appendix B] with the national median annual

wage for librarians at \$56,360. The annual mean salary reported nationally for librarians is \$60,734 with the median at \$55,883 according to the ALA-APA 2010 Librarian Salary Survey.

From these findings, it appears that Gov Docs Librarians in the southeast earn less than Gov Docs Librarians nationally and less nationally

than all other librarians. Despite this, many Gov Docs Librarians still recognize the value of what they do. As one respondent expressed, "I enjoy what I do. As we know GPO has a lot of great and use(ful) information."

Job titles/designators: A Rose by any Other Name

As demonstrated in Appendix C Depository Coordinators may have a great number of added responsibilities or Gov Docs may be the added responsibility to their already heavy day. One person commented in the survey, "Most of my work time is spent on my other duties. Occasionally I have reference questions related to government documents."

Something to note from the variety of titles listed, is that there are a few that reoccur: acquisitions, reference, and instruction. The survey found that government documents duties increasingly are being folded in with technical services. It was interesting to find that only eight respondents had the title of government information librarian rather than government docs librarian. Thirteen of the respondents don't even allude to their depository duties in their job title. They do however have some of the Federal Depository Coordinator responsibilities added to their job responsibilities either permanently or in the long-term interim. The intent of this report is not to debate job titles nor that the lack of a government title may weaken depositories, resulting in less attention to the collection, its cataloging, processing, outreach, instruction, and so forth.

Work environment

The goal of this study is to develop a more precise baseline reflection of government information librarians regardless of the type of library they work in or the size of their collections. As such, we received responses from 28 academic libraries, 16 academic research libraries, four public libraries, three academic law libraries, three technical colleges,

two state libraries, two special libraries, and one law or court library.

Many government document librarians were unable to specify the size of their collections as the majority of it was either not catalogued or partially under the LC and the SuDoc systems. Of this study's respondents, 15% reported they receive 100% of government publications, while 33% selected 20-30% of government publications. Although our survey did not include a range lower than 20-30% [See Appendix D, Question 23] a few respondents informed us that they select less than that. The lowest reported in the comments was five percent. This was unanticipated and indicated a move towards smaller collections.

CONCLUSION

In the Spring of 2011, this team launched the first salary survey that sought input from all Federal Depository Coordinators regardless of type or size of the library or their official titles. This survey was the first to our knowledge for this particular type of librarian. The team was interested to learn how their job responsibilities, position titles, and salaries compared to others in the region. As no survey studies were found that included this information specifically about government information librarians, a project was begun. Human resource departments conducting pay equity studies, researchers tracking compensation trends, job seekers, and those under current contract/salary negotiations, are but a few examples of audiences who might use this data this survey.

While much of the data discusses salary comparisons and earning differences, the intent of the survey was less about salary comparison than it was about job responsibilities, qualifications, and education. From the results, the authors were able to extrapolate interesting and unexpected trends within their niche of librarianship, such as government information librarians earning lower than average salaries

when compared with librarians in general. The fact that (for government documents librarians at least) there is no direct correlation between education and salary was an unexpected find. And the validation that government document librarians more often than not hold multiple job designations or serve as subject liaisons was disheartening. The diversity revealed through the project responses further reinforced the

original idea that government information librarians do not fall into a melting pot category.

Yadira Payne was Government Information Librarian at Augusta State University and is now works at Woodworth Consolidated Library at Fort Gordon, yadira.v.payne.naf@mail.mil; LuMarie F. Guth is Government Document Coordinator at Columbus State University, mguth_lumarie@columbusstate.edu; Chris Sharpe is Government Documents Coordinator at Kennesaw State University, mcsharpe@kennesaw.edu

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APPENDIX A: Letter to Regionals

7 March 2011

Dear Regional Depository Coordinator,

My name is Yadira V. Payne and I am the Government Information Librarian for Augusta State University's Reese Library in Augusta, Georgia. I am writing on behalf of my fellow project colleagues, LuMarie Guth and Chris Sharpe, to ask your assistance with our Southeastern Federal Depository Coordinators Salary Survey Project. This is the first time a study focusing on "gov docs" librarians has been executed, and we hope it will not only fill a research gap but also act as a springboard or resource for others. We are asking that you forward the following link to our survey through your selective depository library list-serv. The link will be active from 7 March through 31 March and the survey should take no longer than 10 minutes to complete.

<http://surveygoldplus.com/s/35DFDA2C7604481B/28.htm>

Thank you in advance for your assistance with our project. If you should have any questions or concerns, please do not hesitate to contact me via telephone (706) 729-2166 or email ypayne@aug.edu. We will be more than willing to share our results with your depositories either by presenting them in person and/or by submitting the data in articles to your state library association journals. We believe that the anonymous data collected can serve as a tool for library directors and human resource professionals as they conduct compensation studies and determine salary ranges for new and existing positions. Again, thank you for your assistance.

With Gratitude,

Yadira V. Payne
Government Information Librarian, #0127
Reese Library
Augusta, GA

LuMarie F. Guth
Government Documents Coordinator, #0120A
Simon Schwob Memorial Library
Columbus, GA

Chris Sharpe
Government Documents Coordinator, #0124
Sturgis Library
Kennesaw, GA

Appendix B: Bureau of Labor Statistics (Southeast Region)

Occupation: Librarians (SOC code 254021)							
Period: May 2010							
Area name	Employment(1)	Employment % relative standard error(3)	Hourly mean wage	Annual mean wage(2)	Wage percent relative standard error(3)	Hourly median wage	Annual median wage(2)
Alabama	2110	3.4	24.86	51710	1.4	25.09	52190
Arkansas	1570	2.1	24.64	51250	1.1	24.12	50170
Florida	7110	2.7	26.99	56130	1.3	25.59	53230
Georgia	3630	2.9	28.25	58770	1.3	28.52	59330
Kentucky	2210	3.3	25.45	52940	1.3	25.91	53880
Louisiana	2080	3.2	24.15	50220	1.1	24.2	50340
Mississippi	1700	7.5	20.19	41990	2.3	20.21	42050
North Carolina	4930	2	24.51	50970	1.5	24.02	49960
South Carolina	2280	2.4	24.93	51840	1.5	24.79	51560
Tennessee	2880	1.7	23.16	48180	1.3	23.19	48230
Virginia	4750	2	30.29	62990	2.1	28.68	59650
Footnotes:							
(1) Estimates for detailed occupations do not sum to the totals because the totals include occupations not shown separately. Estimates do not include self-employed workers.							
(2) Annual wages have been calculated by multiplying the hourly mean wage by 2080 hours; where an hourly mean wage is not published the annual wage has been directly calculated from the reported survey data.							
(3) The relative standard error (RSE) is a measure of the reliability of a survey statistic. The smaller the relative standard error the more precise the estimate.							
SOC code: Standard Occupational Classification code -- see http://www.bls.gov/soc/home.htm							
Data extracted on July 26 2011							

Appendix C: Job Titles/Designators

[Titles in this list are in scrambled order and do not identify frequency of use]

Government Documents Librarian/Coordinator
Regional Depository Librarian/Map Librarian
Senior Librarian
Division Manager of Information Resources
Sociology Research and Information Services Manager
Reference Specialist
Coordinator of Reference and ILL
Reference Librarian
GIS Librarian
Business/Government Documents Librarian
Government Information Librarian/Coordinator
Reference/Government Information Coordinator
Subject Specialist (chose not to identify exact title)
Government Documents Department Head
Psychology and Political Science Specialist
Reference and Instruction Librarian
Library Associate
Acquisitions Librarian
Social Science and Humanities Librarian
Political Science Liaison
Rhetoric and Communications Studies Librarian
Stats and Data Librarian
Electronic Resources Librarian
Library Assistant II
Business Liaison
Supervisor of Gov Info Department
Library Director
Reference and Social Work Librarian
Government Documents and Serials Head
Acquisitions and Access Management
Philosophy and Theology Liaison
History and Political Science Liaison
Microform and Government Documents Librarian/Coordinator
Music and government Documents Librarian
Cataloging Librarian
English Language and Literature Liaison

Appendix D: Salary Survey (Questions)

Southeastern Federal Depository Coordinators Salary Survey

Instructions

Thank you for taking the time to assist us as we conduct this salary survey for Federal Depository Coordinators in the Southeast. We have identified that there is a gap in the research and survey tools when it comes to "Gov Docs" Librarians. This is our attempt to fill this gap and create a resource tool for library directors and human resource professionals as they conduct compensation studies and determine salary ranges for new and existing positions.

Answer questions as they relate to you. For most answers, check the boxes most applicable to you or fill in the blanks. Please be honest in your responses. All responses are anonymous.

Consent Form

1. Thank you for taking the time to complete the attached survey. You must be 18 years of age in order to participate. Please do not write your name on any part of the survey so that your responses remain anonymous. You are not required to answer any of these questions and your participation is completely voluntary. By completing the survey you are giving your consent to participate in the study. If you do not wish to participate please leave the survey blank. Thank you. If you have questions or concerns regarding this study please contact Yadira V. Payne at (706)729-2166 or ypayne@aug.edu.

(Select only one.)

- ☐ Accept
- ☐ Decline

About You

This section is for collecting general demographic data. We would appreciate honest responses as this will aid our study. All responses in this entire survey are anonymous.

2. Age

(Select only one.)

- ☐ Under 30
- ☐ 31-40
- ☐ 41-50
- ☐ 51-60
- ☐ 61-Over

3. Gender

(Select only one.)

- ☐ Female

- ☐ Male

4. Ethnicity

(Select only one.)

- ☐ Asian/Pacific Islander
☐ Black (Hispanic)
☐ Black (Not Hispanic; African American)
☐ Hispanic
☐ Native American
☐ White (Caucasian)
☐ White (Hispanic)
☐ Other
☐ I would rather not respond

5. Base Salary (In thousands)

(Select only one.)

- ☐ 20-25
☐ 26-30
☐ 31-35
☐ 36-40
☐ 41-45
☐ 46-50
☐ 51-55
☐ 56-60
☐ 61-65
☐ 66-70
☐ 71-75
☐ 76 - and over

Professional Experience

6. Years of experience (as a professional librarian)

(Select only one.)

- ☐ 0 (recent graduate)
☐ 1-5
☐ 6-10
☐ 11-15
☐ 16-20
☐ 21-25
☐ 26-30
☐ 31 plus years

7. Years at current position

(Select only one.)

- ☐ 0 (recent graduate)
- ☐ 1-5
- ☐ 6-10
- ☐ 11-15
- ☐ 16-20
- ☐ 21 plus years

8. Number of people you directly supervise (staff, volunteers, and students)

(Select only one.)

- ☐ 0
- ☐ 1-3
- ☐ 4-7
- ☐ 8-10
- ☐ 11 or more

9. What percentage of your job duties are specific to your government information collection?

(Select only one.)

- ☐ 1-10%
- ☐ 11-20%
- ☐ 21-30%
- ☐ 31-40%
- ☐ 41-50%
- ☐ 51-60%
- ☐ 61-70%
- ☐ 71-80%
- ☐ 81-90%
- ☐ 91-100%

10. Do you (or your staff) perform technical services duties for your GPO items? Mark all that apply.

(Select all that apply.)

- ☐ Mail processing
- ☐ Creating labels
- ☐ Cataloging (copy or original)
- ☐ Mending

11. Are you a library director?

(Select only one.)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No

Education

12. What is (are) the highest degree(s) that you have earned?

(Select only one.)

- ☐ Bachelor
- ☐ Masters in Library and/or Information Science
- ☐ Other Masters (not library or information discipline)
- ☐ Both MLIS + additional Masters
- ☐ Doctorate (library or information discipline)
- ☐ Doctorate

13. If you have multiple graduate degrees, please list them:

14. Do you find that these degrees have been instrumental in successful salary negotiations?

(Select only one.)

- ☐ Yes
- ☐ No
- ☐ I don't know
- ☐ No comment

Job Title(s)

15. What is your job title related to government information?

(Select only one.)

- ☐ Government Documents Librarian/Coordinator
- ☐ Government Information Librarian/Coordinator
- ☐ Other (please specify):

16. If you have multiple job titles/subject specializations as well, please list your job title as designated by your library:

17. What is your job status?

(Select only one.)

- ☐ Staff
- ☐ Administrative Faculty
- ☐ Faculty (non-tenure track)
- ☐ Faculty (tenure track but not yet tenured)
- ☐ Faculty (tenured)

Work Environment

18. What type of library do you work for?

(Select only one.)

- ☐ Public Library
- ☐ Technical College Library (2-year institution)
- ☐ Technical College Library (4-year institution)
- ☐ Academic Library
- ☐ Academic Research Library
- ☐ Academic Law Library
- ☐ Law or Court Library
- ☐ Special Library
- ☐ Medical Library
- ☐ Other, please specify:

19. If you work in an academic setting, what is your FTS (full-time student) Total?

(Select only one.)

- ☐ I do not know
- ☐ I do not work in this environment
- ☐ Approximately:

20. If in a non-academic setting, please give the approximate number of patrons.

(Select only one.)

- ☐ I do not know.
- ☐ I do not work in this environment.
- ☐ Approximately:

21. What is the approximate size of your library's total collection?

(Select only one.)

- ☐ 50,000
- ☐ 100,000
- ☐ 200,00
- ☐ 300,000
- ☐ 500,000
- ☐ 600,000-1 Million
- ☐ I do not know.

22. What is the approximate size of your physical (not digital) government documents collection?

23. What percentage of government documents do you receive?

(Select only one.)

- ☐ 20-30%

- ☐ 30-40%
- ☐ 40-50%
- ☐ 50-60%
- ☐ 60-70%
- ☐ 70-80%
- ☐ 80-90%
- ☐ 100%

Comments

24. Please leave any comments that you think will aid us as we complete the survey and begin evaluations.

Please provide the following (*required)

State / Province*

GLQ WHITE PAPER

Open source software and librarian values

By Jason Puckett

Open source software

The term “open source software” (OSS) refers to computer programs released under terms allowing users to use, modify, or redistribute the software in any way they see fit, without requiring users to pay the creators a fee (Szczepanska, Bergquist, & Ljungberg, 2005, p. xvii). It is known as “open source” because the source code – the programming code that makes the software work – is made available along with the ready-to-use software itself. OSS is also known as “free software.” “Free” here is meant in the sense of liberty, not the sense of “without cost,” although both meanings are valid.

OSS may be developed by a single individual, a group (formally organized or ad hoc), or sponsored by a nonprofit or other corporate entity to fill a need. Because any interested party can view the source code and learn how the software works, OSS development naturally falls into a collaborative pattern. The OSS user community is made up of potential co-developers, since anyone can contribute improvements, new features,

and bug fixes. While many libraries and librarians have contributed to the development of OSS, these qualities have implications for libraries beyond the potential for direct participation in code development.

The decision to make a piece of software open source carries with it some implied stances on issues of freedom of information. Making the decision to share the source code to a software project implies that the creator believes that sharing information is a worthwhile good. In many cases, sharing access to a program’s code goes beyond simply making it publicly available to encouraging collaborative development from the software’s community of users. These values of free access and collaboration align with many of the tenets central to the profession of librarianship and with academic librarianship in particular.

In practical terms, both the OSS community and the profession of librarianship value open standards for its ability to promote accessible information. OSS tends to be

more compatible with open data standards, providing better long-term accessibility and preservation of data. And in fact, OSS itself is amenable to long-term preservation, since any interested party may save, examine, or archive the software’s code. OSS is more likely to be developed for multiple platforms, allowing longer-term compatibility with new and future technology. In many senses, OSS represents a manifestation of the same cultural and economic factors behind other movements toward free information in academic librarianship, like open access journal publishing (Morgan, 2004).

Collaboration and community

The work of libraries, and particularly the academic library, as a facilitator and producer of scholarship both serves and relies on collaboration and the work of a community. So does open source development. The community may be that of readers, authors, and researchers, or of software users and developers, but both the OSS model and the scholarly community depend on collaborative contribution.

“People require unfettered access to information (read software) in order to build on the good work of others” (Morgan, 2004). This sentiment applies to scholarship as easily as it does to software development.

Open source developers often donate their time and energy to projects for no monetary gain, just as libraries provide information freely to their communities of users. Contributors see benefit in being part of a productive community, in learning from the work, and in appreciation for their valuable effort, demonstrating values that may even have diffused into internet collaborative models from academic research culture (Szczepanska, Berquist, & Ljungberg, 2005, p. 443). Many authors draw parallels between OSS and the anthropological concept of the “gift culture,” in which individuals give gifts in order to benefit the community and to gain status and recognition as well as the satisfaction of philanthropy (e.g., Raymond, 2000).

Librarians may see a clear parallel to their own work, which is that sharing information with the community provides a worthwhile public good that feeds back to benefit the community as a whole (Engard, 2010, pp. 31-32). Contributing work to an OSS project results in better software, benefits to the user community, and

possibly a learning experience as well as recognition for the contributor. Libraries’ contributions to the scholarly community (in the form of research assistance, information access, and other services) result in the production of more scholarship and recognition of the library’s value as an organ of the academic enterprise. In recognition of the “community gift” nature of open source, the Horowhenua Library Trust named their open source integrated library system Koha, the Maori word for “gift” (Eyler, 2003).

Like the scholarship valued by academic librarians, the OSS development process includes a form of collaborative peer review to ensure high quality results. Rather than a few expert reviewers, the “peer reviewers” of OSS are potentially the entire user community. The two processes share the same root idea, however; with sufficient examination by knowledgeable reviewers, problems can be identified and eliminated (Morgan, 2009). The OSS community summarizes this philosophy with the aphorism “given enough eyeballs, all bugs are shallow” (Raymond, 2001, p. 41).

Privacy and security

OSS supports libraries’ mission to provide information freely in an environment of privacy and freedom from judgment.

The American Library Association’s Code of Ethics states that “we protect each library user’s right to privacy and confidentiality with respect to information sought or received and resources consulted, borrowed, acquired or transmitted” (American Library Association, 2008). The *ALA Intellectual Freedom Manual* expands on this principle in the more specific forum of access to digital information, services and networks: “All library system and network policies, procedures, or regulations relating to digital information and services *should be scrutinized* for potential violation of user rights” (American Library Association., 2010, emphasis mine).

Commercial software, like many integrated library systems, is not nearly as subject to this scrutiny. Commercial software is generally a “black box” in that we can examine what goes in and what comes out, but not its internal operation, in our quest for improved privacy and security. Open source software may be more secure, since it allows libraries’ programmers and systems librarians to better identify security holes in the services we use; in short, the services become more accountable because we can see how they work (Asay, 2008; Paul, 2009). The community development model helps ensure that even libraries without programmers on staff can benefit. If one library can

identify a security hole, all libraries that use the software can address the problem in the next update.

Information Neutrality

Librarians have historically opposed restrictions on information use, like censorship. Technological barriers are no less a significant challenge to libraries' provision of free information than social barriers. Issues like digital rights management and net neutrality have become libraries' fights as well (Bailey, 2006). The fight against information restrictions of all kinds – technological as well as societal – lies at the heart of librarians' professional values and could be framed as *information neutrality*.

Alfino and Pierce (1997) break down libraries' mission of neutrality into three components: neutrality of library materials (collections), neutrality of the information services provided, and professional and personal neutrality of the librarian. Their analysis of national library association codes from several countries concluded that "the stated ethical goal of the profession is the neutral, unbiased provision of library service to all patrons" (Alfino & Pierce, p. 119).

Technological tools for providing information, like software, logically fall into the services category and might perhaps even fit into

Ranganathan's law of library science "books are for use" (Ranganathan, 1931). When we choose technology for libraries, we should keep this mission of information neutrality in mind and make decisions on the basis of providing the most neutral and transparent service possible.

Open source tends to be antithetical to restrictive information barriers like digital rights management (DRM) – restrictions that librarians have begun to oppose more strongly on both ethical and economic grounds (e.g., Sellie & Goins, 2011). OSS runs on more devices (allowing users and librarians a voice in their choice of hardware), is more transparent in its function, is less susceptible to information restriction, and in general is ethically and philosophically compatible with libraries' mission of information neutrality:

It has been suggested that libraries are almost ethically required to use, develop and support open source software. The parallels between the rules of librarianship and open source are easy to spot just by comparing the open source definition (and/or the free software definition) to the rules set forth by nearly all library associations. Both organizations center their rules on freedom of use and free access to

information. (Engard, 2010, p. 29)

Preservation and standards

Libraries value open information and open data standards for several reasons. Information in open formats can be preserved. Open information tends to be "portable" since it can be used more easily in ways unforeseen by the creator or by the library. Libraries are concerned about how they will preserve and make available information content not just today but also in a decade or a century.

Open source is typically designed with open standards in mind. Creators of commercial software have a vested interest in preventing their data from being easily used in other programs because the availability of other options represents a threat to their profit.

This limitation can apply even to non-profit library projects like homegrown integrated library systems, once common.

[Homegrown ILSes] did what the library needed, but staff changes in the library made it clear that homegrown systems were too much trouble. The problem was that libraries built systems that only they knew how to run and update; if libraries had thought to release their code on the internet and

work with other libraries, the open source integrated library system would probably be the standard today. (Engard, 2010, p. 23)

OSS tends to be more compatible with standard formats, and less so with proprietary and DRM-locked content. Like libraries, open source developers find it advantageous to be able to share data with other programs. A spokesperson for the open-source bibliographic software Zotero expressed their commitment to open data: “our commitment to open standards means that it is easy to move your information to whatever else comes along; you can import and export information in just about every bibliographic metadata format” (Morrison & Owens, 2008).

This attitude toward open data is typical in open-source projects. For one thing, it simply makes development easier if developers build on existing standards rather than creating a new proprietary data format. This tendency renders information from OSS programs more preservation-friendly

since data content can typically be migrated to other software. Even if no native converter is available, one could potentially be created since source code is available. In short, using OSS helps free libraries from becoming locked in to a particular program forever. Transparency and interoperability reduces risk (Engard, 2010).

Even abandoned OSS projects may be preserved and revitalized for the good of the library community. Because OSS is freely available, defunct programs can still be retrieved and revived, whether simply to access old data or to restart development. Emory University’s open-source reserves system ReservesDirect ceased development in 2009, but the source code remains available (Emory University Libraries, 2009). Another library could download the code, contribute development resources, and release a new version.

Conclusion

Open source developers and university libraries share the same fundamental goal, which is to share information freely and for the common good:

Librarians espouse many of the same ideals that drive the free software community. They collaborate and communicate; they work hard to share the results of their work with one another. They understand freedom and feel that it's an important value. That more librarians aren't actively using and evangelizing free software is an indictment against [developers] for not letting [librarians] in on our secret. (Eyler, 2003, para. 22)

Because we share so many of the values of the OSS community, we should feel an obligation to promote open source in the library community.

Jason Puckett is Communication Librarian at Georgia State University

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*People, Libraries
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

Georgia Health Sciences University

New Director, Greenblatt Library



Brenda Seago, Ph.D., began as director of libraries at Georgia Health Sciences University June 1. She served as associate professor and administrative director, in the Virginia Commonwealth University School of Medicine Center for Human Simulation

and Patient Safety, helping establish the center. Dr. Seago received her Ph.D. in public policy and administration, with a focus in health policy. Her dissertation proposed a new model for teaching the pelvic examination using simulators and genital teaching associates.

She worked in the VCU School of Medicine for more than 15 years, also serving as the director of the computer based instruction lab for medical students, where she was responsible for integrating technology into the curriculum. Before coming to the school of medicine, Dr. Seago worked at the Tompkins-McCaw Library for the Health Sciences at VCU. She taught literature searching skills and served as a clinical medical librarian. Dr. Seago previously worked at Inova Fairfax Hospital, and at the medical centers at George Washington University and Georgetown University.

Dr. Seago will serve as director of libraries for the consolidated university created from GHSU and Augusta State University once the new university is created early in 2013.

People, Libraries
and Agencies

IN THE NEWS

Georgia Perimeter College

Library Paws Event a Big Success with Students, Faculty, and Staff

Georgia Perimeter College, Clarkston Campus Library in partnership with READING Paws/Georgia, held their first *Library Paws* event to provide stress relief for students during final exams (April 30-May2). Among the nine registered therapy dog/owner teams were a Great Pyrenees, (owned by a GPC faculty member), a Boxer, a Mastiff, and two English Labrador Retrievers.

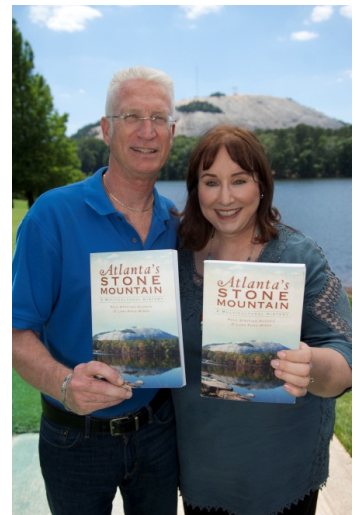
Students sat on the floor with some spending more than 30 minutes with the dogs while other visited the animals more than once. Rousing success of the program was affirmed by comments from students: "I just came from my last final and this helps a lot. It's a good way to let go of some stress," "I was here every day and I'll come back next time" and "It motivated me to finish my paper so I could go see the dogs. They had to throw me out of here and I've been back every day."

Librarians created a LibGuide® and informational handouts on animal assisted therapy and the library staff plan to make this even a twice-a-year happening.



Stone Mountain Book by GPC Authors Garners Statewide History Award

"Atlanta's Stone Mountain: A Multicultural History," by Georgia Perimeter College faculty members Paul Stephen Hudson and Lora Pond Mirza, received the Lilla M. Hawes Award for best book about Georgia local or county history published in 2011. The award was announced during the Georgia Historical Society's annual meeting in Savannah on May 17.



The Hawes award is presented annually and named in honor of Lilla M. Hawes, director of the Georgia Historical Society from 1948 to 1976.

“Paul Hudson and Lora Mirza have taken the great bluish-gray granite dome that we know as Stone Mountain and built a compelling multicultural history as well as a guide for the inquisitive reader. In ranging from the Paleo-Indians who hunted mammoths in its shadow to the debates over the Confederate Memorial carving to today's park that honors the primeval grandeur of this enormous stone, they set a standard for how local history, natural history and popular history can be combined into one highly readable volume,” said Paul Pressly, chair of the Georgia Historical Society awards committee.

Hudson, a GPC history professor and newspaper columnist, and Mirza, a GPC research librarian

and photographer, are both “stunned and very happy” about the Hawes award, especially since it is their first book. “We consider the mountain a very dear friend, pulsating with life, that we have come to love and cherish in our writing, research and photography,” said Mirza.

“Atlanta’s Stone Mountain: A Multicultural History,” was published by The History Press.

Chartered by the Georgia General Assembly in 1839, the Georgia Historical Society is the oldest continuously operated historical society in the South. As an educational and research institution, GHS teaches Georgia history through a variety of educational programs, scholarly publications, and research services.

People, Libraries
and Agencies

IN THE NEWS



Gwinnett Public Libraries

Fall into the Arts Series – Carmen Deedy

Award Winning Children's Author Carmen Deedy will appear at the Lawrenceville branch of the Gwinnett County Public Library Saturday, September 29th, at 6 p.m. to greet fans and promote her newest book *Return of the Library Dragon*. This meet and greet is part of the Library's Fall Into the Arts program series, and is a kids' component of the Gwinnett Reads tradition.

Carmen Agra Deedy has been writing for children for over two decades. Born in Havana, Cuba, she came to the U.S. as a refugee in 1964, and grew up in Decatur, Georgia, where she lives today. The first book in this series, *The Library Dragon*, received children's state book awards. In 2003 the book was her home state's choice to represent Georgia at the Library of Congress's National Book Festival.

Doors open at 5:30 p.m., and books are available for purchase and signing. All Fall Into the Arts events are free and open to the public; seats are available on a first come, first serve basis.

Fall Into the Arts Series – Keynote Speaker and 2012 Gwinnett Reads Author

Pulitzer Prize winner and the Poet Laureate of the United States, Natasha Trethewey is this year's Gwinnett Reads author and keynote speaker for Fall Into the Arts 2012. Her work combines free verse with more traditional forms like the sonnet and the villanelle to explore memory and the racial legacy of

America. Her newest book, *Thrall*, will be release this fall.

Poet Natasha Trethewey was born in Gulfport, Mississippi. She has written three collections of poetry: *Domestic Work* (Graywolf Press, 2000), *Bellocq's Ophelia* (Graywolf, 2002), and *Native Guard* (Houghton Mifflin, 2006), for which she was awarded the 2007 Pulitzer Prize. She is also the author of a book of creative non-fiction, *Beyond Katrina: A Meditation on the Mississippi Gulf Coast* (Georgia, 2010).

Trethewey has been the recipient of other awards including the inaugural 1999 Cave Canem poetry prize, and the 2003 Mississippi Institute of Arts and Letters Book Prize. She was a finalist for both the Academy of American Poets' James Laughlin and Lenore Marshall prizes, and was named a 2003 Notable Book by the American Library Association. Her work has appeared in several volumes of *Best American Poetry*, and in journals such as *American Poetry Review*, *Kenyon Review*, *New England Review*, and *The Southern Review*, among others.

Gwinnett County Public Library's popular countywide Gwinnett Reads tradition continues as part of the annual Fall Into The Arts program. The full list of 2012 events includes:

"The Caine Mutiny Court Martial"—

Thursday, Oct. 11th, 8 p.m.

New Dawn Theater generously donated free seats to library guests for an evening performance of this two-act play adapted by author Herman Wouk from his novel, *The Caine Mutiny*.

Chair-ish the Arts @ Your Library—through October.

Participate in the Chair-ish the Arts@ Your Library contest at your Gwinnett County

Public Library branch! Art groups and individual artists are invited to re-imagine a chair or bench and submit their creative works for this fun contest. The deadline for contest entries is September 30th.

Altered Book Contest

More than 40 stunning creations submitted to the Gwinnett County Public Library's Altered Book contest, as well as the highly imaginative Pulp Fashion pieces featured at Duluth's Barefoot in the Park festival, were on display at the Hudgens Center for the Arts beginning in June. The public was invited to celebrate the opening of these and other exhibits at the June 9th reception, hosted by the Hudgens.

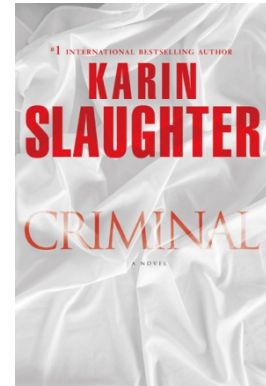
During the reception, winners of the Library's Altered Book Contest were announced, and prizes were awarded to first place entries of both the Adult and Student categories. The First Place prize for the Adult category was a \$100 gift card donated by the Georgia United Credit Union, and the First Place prize for the Student Category was a Nook eReader courtesy of Garden Plaza.

"The exhibit at the Hudgens promises to be an extraordinary display of innovative designs and delightful surprises," explains Gwinnett County Public Library Executive Director Nancy Stanbery-Kellam. "We have had over 40 submissions for the Altered Books Contest, and 14 Pulp Fashions created for 'Barefoot'-- each piece a unique expression that uses print material in a new way. That they can be enjoyed by the public in one exhibit and supported by generous donors like the Georgia United Credit Union and Garden Plaza is such a special opportunity for our community."

Karin Slaughter Supports Book Fair

Karin Slaughter, bestselling author and library advocate, appeared after a Curious George themed story time for Barnes and Noble's two-

day Bookfair at the Forum on Peachtree Parkway to benefit the Gwinnett County Public Library on Saturday, July 7th. Customers at the Norcross store browsed, enjoyed stories, and signed-up for the library's Summer Reading Program, as well as benefiting the library with their purchases during the fair.



"We are very grateful that Karin is such a vocal and caring advocate for libraries," says Gwinnett County Public Library Executive Director Nancy Stanbery-Kellam. "Barnes and Noble has presented us with a fantastic opportunity to reach customers who want to support us while enjoying a day of fun for the whole family."



Karin Slaughter is the New York Times and number-one-internationally-bestselling author of twelve thrillers, including *Fallen*, *Broken*,

Undone, *Fractured*, *Beyond Reach*, *Triptych*, and *Faithless*. She is a native of Georgia and a dedicated supporter of public libraries. Karin discussed and signed her new book, *Criminal*, at this event cosponsored by Barnes & Noble and Gwinnett County Public Library.

Seats at events are available on a first come, first serve basis. All events are free and open to the public.

For more information about ways to support the library and other library events, please visit www.gwinnettpl.org, call (770) 978-5154, or find GwinnettLibrary on Facebook, Twitter, or

Google+. To find out more about Fall Into The Arts, please visit www.gwinnettpl.org/fallintothearts, call (770) 978-5154, text (770) 450-5305, or find GwinnettLibrary on Facebook, Google+, and Twitter. Library's Altered Book and Pulp Fashion

Exhibits at Hudgens Center for the Arts. The Hudgens Center for the Arts is located at 6400 Sugarloaf Parkway, Bldg 300, Duluth, GA, 30097. To learn more about the Hudgens, please visit <http://thehudgens.org/>.

*People, Libraries
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

Kennesaw State University

The Sturgis Library at Kennesaw State University is hosting the exhibit "Lincoln: The Constitution and Civil War" at the Social Sciences Building Atrium. The library received the exhibit as a result of a grant written by Alan Lebish, associate library director, in 2009 and will be on display through June 29, 2012. The exhibit, which has travelled to seventeen libraries in the past three years, is arranged thematically and explores how Lincoln used the Constitution to confront three intertwined crises of the Civil War – secession, slavery, and wartime civil liberties.

The exhibit was organized by the National Constitution Center and the ALA Public Programs Office and has been made possible by a major grant from the National Endowment for the Humanities. The KSU Civil War Era Center also sponsored the exhibit.

To celebrate the opening of the exhibit on May 21, Dr. Oral Moses, KSU professor of voice, gave a special performance of Negro spirituals. Dr. Moses, a bass-baritone, performs regularly throughout the U.S. and Europe giving recitals with special emphasis on a wide variety of

Negro spirituals and art song repertoire by African-American composers. Ms. Judith Cole, KSU adjunct instructor of music theory and music history, accompanied Dr. Moses on the piano.



Mr. Michael Shaffer, Mr. Alan Lebish, Ms. Judith Cole, Dr. Oral Moses, and Dr. Brian Wills

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In other news, the librarians at Kennesaw State University were re-classified as non-tenure track faculty on April 1, 2012. Prior to this change, the librarians were categorized as staff.

Ogeechee Technical College

Ogeechee Tech Library Moves to OCLC's WorldShare Management Services

The Ogeechee Technical College Library was the first technical college library in the nation to convert to OCLC's WorldShare Management Services (WMS).



Dr. Lynn Futch

In 2011, thirty-seven academic, public, and special libraries were part of the early adopters program to implement WMS. OCLC's WorldShare Management Services offers libraries a unified solution to help streamline routine tasks like purchasing, cataloguing, and circulating library materials to patrons. "By moving these functions to the Web, libraries are able to share infrastructure costs and resources as well as collaborate in ways that free them from the restrictions of local hardware and software," said Dr. Lynn Futch, OTC's dean for library services. "We have had extremely positive impacts on our budget, our efficiency, and most importantly, our students' use of the library for research and learning." The availability of training and 24/7 online support

were other reasons for choosing WMS.

WMS allows students to access data in a search platform that is similar to Google in format and speed. It provides students and faculty with access to library-held materials as well as allowing them to search a vast pool of information that includes books found in the world's libraries, locally held databases, and a large collection of materials from digital and web-based archives. The new system also will streamline acquiring and cataloging resources and increase availability and immediacy to sources, according to Futch.

According to Dr. Charlene Lamar, OTC vice president for academic affairs, the addition of WMS is another way to serve students better. "The more access to educational materials we can provide our students, the greater opportunity they have to expand their research and knowledge base in their studies," said Lamar. "While physical libraries with paper volumes continue to be important, there is no way to physically provide the expanse of materials that are offered through this online program," Lamar concluded.

"Being the first technical college in the country to utilize this program is significant for our students. It means they have resources here that they may not have at any other technical college in the country right now," stated Futch. Ogeechee Tech has been utilizing WMS since August 2011.

*People, Libraries
and Agencies* **IN THE NEWS**

Valdosta State University

Effective July 1, Dr. Alan Bernstein became Valdosta State University's new University Librarian and Dean of the Master of Library and Information Science (MLIS) Program.

Dr. Bernstein began his career at Valdosta State College as a student in 1978. After graduating with a Bachelor of Arts in philosophy in 1981, he moved to California to pursue graduate studies. Bernstein returned to Valdosta State in 1985 and worked as a part-time instructor in

the Philosophy Department until 1993 when he became head of the circulation department at Odum Library. Alan earned a Master of Education in secondary education in 1992, a Master of Arts in history in 1995, and a Master of Library and Information Science in 2003, all from Valdosta State. In 2003, Bernstein was named associate professor of library science and circulation librarian. Six years later, he graduated with a Doctor of Education in curriculum and instruction. His areas of scholarly interest and publication include library patron services and library administration.

GLA NEWS - GLA Officer Candidates for 2013

First Vice President / President-Elect

Susan D. Morris

Interlibrary Loan Librarian, University of Georgia

Susan Morris serves as Interlibrary Loan Librarian at the University of Georgia where she was appointed in August 1989. She received a B.S.Ed. in French from the University of Georgia, and the M.Ln. from



Emory University. After teaching for four years, she worked in the UGA Libraries as a paraprofessional in both acquisitions and ILL. After graduating from Emory, she was a UGA reference librarian for five years before becoming head of Interlibrary Loan.

A GLA member since 1982, Susan most recently served as Chair of the GLA Handbook Committee in 2010-11 and Chair of the ILL Interest Group in 2011. She served as Chair of the Interest Group Council in 2008 and GLA Secretary in 2004. She was Chair of the Academic Library Division (ALD) in 2001, Vice-Chair/Chair-Elect in 2000 (coordinating programs and the ALD luncheon for the Jekyll Island COMO/SELA conference), Georgia Chapters Council Representative to the Association of College and Research Libraries in 1997-1999, and ALD Secretary in 1996-1997.

Susan has served in every office of the ILL Interest Group. She has also been a member of the Reference Services, Public Relations, and Intellectual Freedom Interest Groups. She was awarded the ALD's EBSCO Award for a best paper in 2003 and 2005. Prior to the establishment of this award, she was invited to present her paper at the 1991 ALD luncheon. A member of ALA since 1982, Susan is also a member of RUSA/STARS, ACRL and IRRT. She presented at ALA in Atlanta in 2002 and Philadelphia in 2003. As head of the largest ILL operation in the state, she has been a leader in GOLD, a representative to GALILEO, chair of the University System's GIL ILL Committee 1997-2007, a past chair and ongoing member of the ILL/ILU Committee of the Atlanta Regional Council for Higher Education, chair of the ASERL ILL Reciprocal Agreement Committee 1994-2003, and chair of the Georgia OCLC/SOLINET Users Group. She has also contributed articles to the New Georgia Encyclopedia, and, in 2011, she co-authored a chapter on the history of interlibrary loan for ALA's 3rd edition of *the Interlibrary Loan Practices Handbook*.

Fred Smith

Head of Access Services, Georgia Southern University

After earning his MLS from Florida State University, Fred Smith began his career as a reference librarian at Columbus State University in March 1977. He added interlibrary loan to his list of duties soon after. Later at Columbus, he served as Periodicals Librarian and Circulation Librarian. In 1986, he moved to a reference librarian position at Georgia Southern University and also served as Interlibrary Loan Librarian. In 1992, Fred became Head of Access Services and ILL at Georgia Southern. He has served in that position ever since. His department is responsible for circulation, shelving, reserves, overnight service, late night weekend service, interlibrary loan, document delivery to faculty, and document delivery to distance learners. He supervises eleven people directly and seven people indirectly, not counting student assistants.

Fred has over thirty professional publications to his credit and has presented at COMO for most of the last fifteen years. Twenty-four hour service and promotion and tenure are the two topics he has written



about and presented on the most. Since 2002, he has written a column for the *Journal of Access Services* on all aspects of access services. In 2005, his paper "Tenure and Promotion: How University System of Georgia Librarians Rate What We Do" was awarded Outstanding Paper by GLA's Academic Division.

At Georgia Southern, Fred has served as a Faculty Senator several times and has served on most of the committees of the Senate. He also chaired the Faculty Development Committee for two years. The Faculty Development Committee is responsible for awarding over \$100,000 in travel and development money to faculty and chooses the recipient of the annual Award of Excellence in Teaching for the University.

Fred attended his first GLA Conference (pre-COMO) in 1978. He has since attended all GLA Conferences and/or COMOs except one. His first office in GLA was chair of the Interlibrary Cooperation Roundtable in 1987. He has chaired the Circulation and Access Interest Group several times. He has also served as Secretary, Vice Chair, and Chair of the Academic Division. He was GLA Secretary in 2002-2003. He has held several offices in the Southeastern Library Association. Fred was also a member of the Georgia Users Members Group (GUGM) Planning Committee for six years, the longest of any member, and chaired the GUGM Planning Committee in 2008.

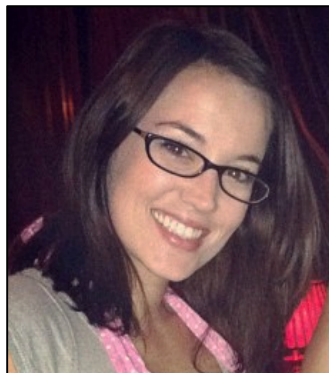
Fred was promoted from Associate Professor to Professor last year. He is currently serving on the Georgia Southern Athletics Committee, an ad hoc Committee to revise the Georgia Southern statutes, and a committee to plan orientation for new faculty.

Fred says GLA has served him well all of these years, and he welcomes the opportunity to serve it as Vice President/President-Elect.

Second Vice President / Membership Chair

Amelia Glawe

Reference and Instruction Librarian, Georgia Perimeter College



Amelia Glawe is a Reference and Instruction Librarian at Georgia Perimeter College where she was previously a part-time reference librarian. Prior to her professional experience, she held an internship at Georgia Institute of Technology while completing her MLIS from the University of South Carolina.

Amelia has a Bachelor of Arts in Communication with a focus in Public and Political Speech from Georgia State University and a Master of Library and Information Science from the University of South Carolina. She is currently serving as the Vice-Chair/Chair Elect of the Professional & Continuing

Education Interest Group of the Georgia Library Association. She served on the planning committee for the ACRL President's Program at the 2011 ALA Annual Conference. Amelia enthusiastically looks forward to continuing her involvement with GLA and to opportunities to serve the library community in the future.

Rhonda McCoy

Information Curriculum Specialist, Paine College

Rhonda McCoy serves as a faculty member and the Curriculum Specialist in the Instruction and Reference Department at Paine College in Augusta, GA, where she has worked since 2001. She studied



as an ALSTARS scholarship recipient for the MLS from the University of South Florida and has a MSFE in Instructional Technology from Troy State University. Rhonda successfully completed the Library Alliance Leadership Institute in 2008 and is currently pursuing a Ph.D. in Instructional Design for Online Learning.

Rhonda has been active in various library organizations for the past twelve years and is a very active member on many committees of GLA and in other professional organizations. Rhonda is currently serving as the Vice-President of BIG.

Rhonda has consistently attended Georgia's Private Academic Libraries members meetings and other professional organizations meetings in lieu of the director. She has served as a conference paper and poster presentations reviewer for several organizations. Rhonda recently published an article on discovery tools in the *Journal of Undergraduate College and Libraries*. Rhonda looks forward to continuously reaching out to new members and igniting a passion for library activism in existing members.

Secretary

Jessica L. Everingham

Director of Library Services, Altamaha Technical College

Jessica "Jess" Everingham seeks to serve in a state-level position in order to give a voice to small academic libraries throughout Georgia. In her "spare" time, she often cogitates about the implications of doing more with less and what this means to libraries with a small budget, small staff, and large service delivery areas. Fresh out of library school (almost nine years ago now), she landed at Altamaha Technical College in Jesup.



She is quite proud to say she is a second-generation librarian. Jessica received a M.S. in Library and Information Studies, from Florida State University, a B.S. in Administrative Services from Valdosta State University, an A.A.S. in Information Processing from Valdosta State University and an A.A.S. in Human Resources Management from the Community College of the Air Force. Prior to her life as a librarian, she served in the Georgia Air National Guard, United States Air Force Reserves, and the United States Air Force.

Most of Jessica's childhood was spent in public libraries—the old fashioned kind where she would find a book or music record by using the card catalog with drawers that pulled out. After many years of fighting it, she decided it was okay to accept the fact that she was destined to be a librarian and she is

glad she did. Jessica looks forward to being elected and serving as the GLA's Secretary for the upcoming year.

Casey Long

User Education Librarian, Agnes Scott College



Casey Long is the User Education Librarian at Agnes Scott College and currently serves as the Secretary for the Academic Library Division of GLA. Since earning her MLIS from the University of Illinois Urbana-Champaign in December 2000, she has dedicated herself to improving student information literacy skills, exploring new ways to market library services, mentoring new librarians, and sharing her experience with colleagues through presentations and publications. In 2009, she was honored as one of Library Journal's Movers and Shakers. She is excited about the opportunity to contribute to GLA by serving on the Executive Board.

Treasurer

Ashley Dupuy

Librarian, Coordinator of Undergraduate Library Instruction, Kennesaw State University

Ashley Dupuy is a Librarian and Coordinator of Undergraduate Library Instruction at the Horace W. Sturgis Library at Kennesaw State University. Prior to becoming a librarian, Ashley worked for 15 years in



marketing and was the business manager for one of the largest advertising agencies in Atlanta. She also holds a B.S. in Economics from the University of Pennsylvania.

Ashley has been actively involved in GLA for several years and has chaired numerous committees including the Atlanta Emerging Librarians, the New Members Round Table and most recently the Scholarship Committee. In her free time she really enjoys counting money, budgeting, and keeping detailed financial records as well as reading, cooking and playing with her husband and three dogs.

GLA NEWS - GLA Award Winners for 2012

Bob Richardson Award: Jeff Heck, Associate Director, Reese Library, Augusta State University. This award honors a GLA member who has made a significant contribution to the association through their time and effort.

McJenkin-Rheay Award: Ashley Dupuy, Coordinator of Undergraduate Instruction, Sturgis Library, Kennesaw State University. This award is given to a librarian early in his or her career who has made outstanding contributions to the Georgia Library Association.

GLA Team Award: Charlie Bennett, Research, Instruction & Outreach Services Librarian, and Ameet Doshi, User Experience Librarian, Georgia Institute of Technology Library. This award honors a team that has excelled in the past year by offering innovative programming or services, performing or acting on assessment activities, undertaking a successful outreach or promotion effort, or providing outstanding support of a Georgia library, and is a new award in 2012 for GLA.

Off the SHELF

The Agony of Survival: A novel by Dr. Spyros Vrettos, translated and reviewed by Harikleia Georgiou Sirmans (Infinity Publishing, 2011; ISBN: 074146909X, pbk. \$13.95)

The Agony of Survival is the first book in a trilogy written by Spyros Vrettos. The book addresses the vital issue of survival as well as the fate of modern humans. The advance of technology, degradation of the environment, neglect of nature, and the exploitation of natural resources have brought upon humanity multiple, imminent dangers. Threatening disasters, natural disasters, pollution of the environment, mass murders, epidemics and deadly diseases, destruction, failure of the worldwide economic system, and other horrors that afflict our planet are explored. Despite the threatening visible or invisible dangers, Vrettos is optimistic that there is hope. There is still time to save our planet and the human race, by seeking intelligent avenues of escape and rebirth. The question of whether human intelligence suffices to prevent the course to destruction is the related theme of *The Incredible Machine*, the second book in the trilogy (published in Greece in 2009). The last book (in process of writing), *The Peacemaker*, addresses the general conditions which could salvage our planet by diminishing the agony of human survival, and creating the global passage to an optimistic future.

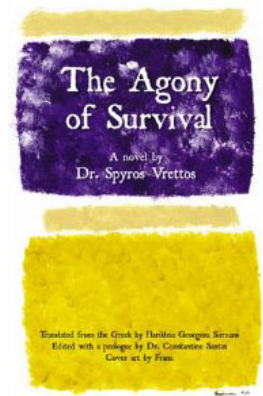
The Agony of Survival revolves around two couples who escaped the dreadful reality and seek peace, love, and art in a remote village. Aris, the main character, is an exceptional man and a brilliant investor. He senses destructive forces are developing worldwide and he traces them through his complicated electronic systems. He thinks that he can survive these forces. That's why he constructed a modern building with rare electronic equipment which

allows him to live in, and communicate with, the entire planet to obtain information. This way he can successfully and universally control his investments. His friend, a film director who is now dead, has helped Aris to better comprehend the threatening reality with a film he made in which Dante and Virgil fly over the entire Earth and witness horrible disasters and diseases that plague the planet. Aris realizes that the salvation of the economy, and life itself, require far more intelligence to resolve.

Aris lives with a young painter, Danae, a woman full of optimism and femininity. She is "a true breath of life" for Aris. Aris assumes the reason Danae stays with him (besides fear and obligation) is love.

The second couple is Thomas and Eleanor. Thomas, a brilliant young economist, collaborates with Aris, and like-minded people, as he seeks to apply his economic theories. Thomas eventually moves to the building constructed by Aris. Thomas brings along Eleanor, a young woman who seeks the true meaning of modern life. Eleanor hopes to regain strength and youthfulness and to feel love.

The prose of the book is realistic, but also artistic and poetic. It raises questions about the fate of modern humans. Are we at the edge of self-destruction because of the development of technology? We live in a poisonous environment that causes illness; we suffer devastations such as floods and hurricanes; we are attacked by terrorists; we are vulnerable and we try, by any means, to avoid death.



Despite the environmental changes that threaten our survival and deteriorate our health, we were gifted with the intelligence to manipulate nature to survive and to “cheat” death. Scientists constantly search for ways to improve and lengthen our lives. The optimism of the book is that when facing a survival threat, we have the ability and the means to avoid it or fight it. We can live a happy and secure life if we embrace nature and protect it.

The timeliness of *The Agony of Survival* is verified constantly today: the massive earthquake in Japan (March 11, 2011) that triggered the 23-foot tsunami; the Fukushima Daiichi nuclear power plant explosion; devastating weather phenomena; financial crisis; diseases; and various other threats plague our planet daily. The author does not wish to spoil the serenity of his readers, but

rather to offer them the joy of involving themselves directly in issues about their lives and their survival. He wants to believe that humans will survive all odds and that our planet will survive—a planet that will never cease to emit the beauty and joy of life. The romance interwoven with the philosophical ideas makes this book accessible not only to philosophically inclined readers but to the everyday man or woman who searches for meaning in the chaos of modern life. Enjoy the book!

Harikleia Georgiou Sirmans grew up in Greece. She holds a B.A. in English Language and Writing, and a minor in French. She currently pursues her Master's in Library and Information Science. The Agony of Survival is her first translation (Greek to English). She works at the Valdosta-Lowndes County Library as a cataloger.